



The Climate Impacts Group Climate Science in the Public Interest

The Climate Impacts Group (CIG) is an interdisciplinary research group studying the impacts of natural climate variability and global climate change (“global warming”) on the U.S. Pacific Northwest (PNW). Through research and interaction with regional stakeholders, the CIG works to increase the resilience of the Pacific Northwest to fluctuations in climate.

The Climate Impacts Group engages in climate science in the public interest, working to understand the consequences of climate variability and climate change for the US Pacific Northwest (PNW). CIG’s unique focus is on the intersection of climate science and public policy – performing basic research aimed at understanding the consequences of climate fluctuations for the PNW, and promoting application of this information in regional decisions.

CIG's assessment examines climate impacts on four diverse, yet connected, natural systems of the PNW - water, forests, salmon and coasts - and the human socioeconomic and/or political systems associated with each. CIG works to provide regional planners, decision makers, and natural resource managers with valuable knowledge about the ways in which crucial regional resources are vulnerable to changes in climate, and how this vulnerability could best be reduced.

The CIG is unique in its focus on the intersection of climate science and public policy. They perform fundamental research on climate impacts and work with PNW planners and policy makers to apply this information to regional decision making processes. The CIG is part of the Center for Science in the Earth System (CSES) at the University of Washington's Joint Institute for the Study of Atmosphere and Ocean (JISAO). CSES combines and integrates expertise in climate dynamics, ecological dynamics, hydrologic dynamics, and institutional and policy analysis in order to perform integrated research on the impacts of climate on the U.S. Pacific Northwest. CIG is one of eight Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessment (RISA) teams studying regional impacts of climate variability and climate change in the U.S. The RISA program is funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Climate Program Office. CIG enjoys additional financial and technical support from the University of Washington.